Amendments to the Claims

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1. (currently amended) A mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner, comprising:

an interface charged rechargeable power supply that powers the fingerprint scanner during mobile use; and

a data and power communication interface that couples data between the fingerprint scanner and a docking station, and that provides power to charge said interface charged rechargeable power supply, wherein said data includes information representative of a fingerprint image captured by the mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner; whereby, a dedicated plug for recharging a power supply separate from a data interface can be avoided.

2. (original) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 1, wherein said interface charged rechargeable power supply includes at least one rechargeable battery.

3. (currently amended) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said interface charged rechargeable power supply includes a charging circuit that regulates the charging of said at least one rechargeable battery when the fingerprint scanner is receiving power through the ~~powered~~ data and power communication interface.

4. (original) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 3, wherein said charging circuit regulates the rate of charging of said at least one rechargeable battery.

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5. (original) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said interface charged rechargeable power supply includes a voltage regulator circuit that maintains a substantially constant output system voltage from the rechargeable battery during mobile use.

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6. (previously amended) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said data and power communication interface comprises a universal serial bus (USB).

7. (previously amended) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said data and power communication interface comprises an IEEE1394 compatible interface.

8. (cancelled)

9. (original) The mobile, hand-held fingerprint scanner of claim 2, wherein said at least one rechargeable battery comprises at least one nickel cadmium battery.

10. (currently amended) A method for charging a mobile fingerprint scanner comprising the steps of:

charging a rechargeable power supply in the mobile fingerprint scanner with power carried over a data and communication interface; and

transmitting data from the mobile fingerprint scanner over the data and communication interface, wherein the data includes information representative of a fingerprint image captured by the mobile fingerprint scanner.

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11. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the rechargeable power supply includes at least one rechargeable battery, wherein said charging step comprises:

regulating the charging of said at least one rechargeable battery when the fingerprint scanner is receiving power through the data and communication interface.

12. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein said regulating step comprises:

regulating the rate of charging of the at least one rechargeable battery.

13. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the interface charged rechargeable power supply includes a voltage regulator circuit, further comprising the step of:

maintaining a substantially constant output system voltage from the rechargeable power supply during mobile use with the voltage regulator circuit.

14. (new) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

docking the mobile fingerprint scanner with a docking station to couple the data and communication interface to a power source.

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15. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein said docking step comprises:

coupling the data and power communication interface with the docking station through a universal serial bus (USB).

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16. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein said docking step comprises:

coupling the data and power communication interface with the docking station through an IEEE1394 compatible interface.